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**From:** Proto, Paul [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E9B2E837D7ED4826B3AC421843833318-PPROTO]  
**Sent:** 11/16/2021 8:13:52 PM  
**To:** Nichols, Miranda (MPCA) [miranda.nichols@state.mn.us]  
**Subject:** RE: MPCA: Share you water quality data with us

Hi Miranda,

Thanks for your email. Post 2020 IWL life hasn't been too terrible. I have been able to catch up some on other responsibilities which were pushed to the back of the queue as the 2020 consumed my work life. So that is a good thing.

I think I have a work around for the zip renaming challenge you posed below. I just tested this with my personal email account and it appeared to work fairly seamlessly, so hopefully it will go as smoothly for you.

I will send you an email with a link to a cloud server where you can upload files (drag and drop them) and then share those files with me. It isn't done through our email it is done via this other tool, Go Anywhere Web Client. It is fairly straight forward to figure out (at least I think so) and perhaps we could do a test run before trying to upload the big ZIP file.

Also, if the ZIP is problematic, we can also upload the individual files (word documents or pdfs or whatever) and share those individually. Whatever is more convenient for you. The main goal is to try and eliminate headaches with this document sharing.

Unsure of the size limitations for this uploading to the cloud server solution. I guess we will find out soon 😊 I used this document sharing platform/service to share the gobs of documents for our Appendices for some of the 2020 documents over the past 9 months. During those document dumps to requestors, I was able to attach 20-25 documents of varying sizes without trouble. So, maybe that is a crude measuring stick of how much it can handle in terms of file size.

Having ATTAINS done sometime after Thanksgiving sounds fine to me. If I can start to peel the ATTAINS tasks apart in December sometime, that would be great.

And...thanks for the explanation on the water quality sampling and the challenges of Covid. I figured that was likely a hurdle which may have impacted the solicitation for data from outside parties.

I will share the email with a link to the cloud server very shortly. If you want to test sending me some files, just let me know and I will check to see if they arrived.

Have a good afternoon.

Paul

Paul Proto | Environmental Scientist | U.S. EPA, Region 5, Water Division, Watersheds & Wetlands Branch  
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**From:** Nichols, Miranda (MPCA) <miranda.nichols@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 16, 2021 1:52 PM  
**To:** Proto, Paul <proto.paul@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: MPCA: Share you water quality data with us

Hi, Paul!

It's a good time to check in. I've been fulfilling a lot of interview and data requests this past week and that appears to be slowing down...

Just right now I was pulling together the 100+ recategorization documents pertinent to the 2022 List. I expect to have all that for you as early as tomorrow. There's one known problem and that's the version of Window PCA is now on (10) does not let you mess with the file extension, not that I can see anyway. So I can't change a .zip to a .zzzzz so you receive it in your email. Have you found a way around this?

After that I'll turn my attention back to ATTAINS! If I had to guess, I'd say it'll be after Thanksgiving before I get it to a point where I'd be ready to move it on to the next status.

Yes - just two watersheds. All because of COVID. The 2020 sampling season was limited to only those that could be reached by day trips, in this case the Crow Wing outside of Brainerd and the Miss-TC which St. Paul is in. So we were able to finish the second year of monitoring there (with the exception of some biological monitoring). The watersheds we couldn't get to last year have been pushed back; an updated watershed schedule can be found here: [Watershed approach to restoring and protecting water quality | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.mn.gov/Portals/0/MinnesotaPollutionControlAgency/state.mn.us).

I think that covers it for right now. I hope your post-2020-MN-IWL life has been enjoyable!

Miranda

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**From:** Proto, Paul <[proto.paul@epa.gov](mailto:proto.paul@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 16, 2021 12:51 PM  
**To:** Nichols, Miranda (MPCA) <[miranda.nichols@state.mn.us](mailto:miranda.nichols@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: MPCA: Share you water quality data with us

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Hi Miranda,

A few quick questions for you on the email notice below.

Is MPCA planning to solicit water quality data for more watersheds than just 2 HUC-8s? Two HUC-8s seems a bit low considering you all look at 6-10 HUC-8s per year, roughly. Is this a reflection of Covid-19 impacting sampling efforts? Or water quality staff cutbacks?

Perhaps MPCA will make up for these low numbers by soliciting for water quality data for a larger slug of HUC-8s in 2022?

Update on 2022 from my end...I am just starting to get into the 2022 package of information so I may have a batch of comments to you in the next week or so.

Any rough estimate of when the draft 2022 materials will be uploaded into ATTAINS? I am not chomping at the bit for that to happen, just curious.

Hope all is going well for you!

Paul

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**From:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency <[mpca@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:mpca@public.govdelivery.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2021 10:22 AM

**To:** Proto, Paul <[proto.paul@epa.gov](mailto:proto.paul@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** MPCA: Share you water quality data with us

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## Do you have water quality data to share?

The MPCA is asking for your data to help assess the condition of lakes and streams and build a national database of water quality. Your role in collecting these data is important to Minnesota's effort to identify impaired waters and those in need of additional protection.

The MPCA is specifically interested in water bodies in the following watersheds; it will be determining whether they meet state water quality standards in early 2022:

- Mississippi River - Twin Cities (07010206)
- Crow Wing River (07010106)

If you have data from other areas, the agency will accept it, though the deadlines below do not apply. The agency may also make additional calls for data if needed.

The MPCA will use your data to:

- Help plan for future monitoring efforts, including what to monitor for and where to monitor.
- Identify pollutant "stressors" that are causing or contributing to problems, or threats to fishing, swimming, and recreational uses.
- Evaluate the success of ongoing activities to protect and restore water quality.

### Deadlines:

- Submit data to MPCA by 4:30 p.m. on **Monday, November 1**.
  - Find out more on the [MPCA's surface water data web pages](#).
  - You will need to review the data entered by the MPCA by **Wednesday, December 15**.
- OR submit data to EPA by 4:30 p.m. on **Friday, December 31**. Find out more on the [EPA's Water Quality Portal web pages](#).

Data submitted after these deadlines or reviewed late cannot be guaranteed to be used for 2022 lake and stream assessments.

Thank you for your help!

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The mission of the MPCA is to protect and improve the environment and enhance human health.

St. Paul • Brainerd • Detroit Lakes • Duluth • Mankato • Marshall • Rochester

[www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us) • Toll-free and TDD 800-657-3864



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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